

Message

From: Tom Neltner [tneltner@edf.org]
Sent: 7/7/2021 3:25:06 AM
To: Nguyen, Thuy [Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov]
CC: drmvma@gmail.com; Tom Bruton [tom@greensciencepolicy.org]; Goodis, Michael [Goodis.Michael@epa.gov]; Ozmen, Shamus [Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov]; Nesci, Kimberly [Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Draft Blog on EPA Report PFAS in Plastic Pesticide Packaging

Excellent edit. Thanks!

Tom Neltner
Chemicals Policy Director, Health

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From: Tom Neltner
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:45 PM
To: Nguyen, Thuy <Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov>
Cc: drmvma@gmail.com; Tom Bruton <tom@greensciencepolicy.org>; Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Draft Blog on EPA Report PFAS in Plastic Pesticide Packaging

Thanks for the feedback and the recommendation. We also shared it with FDA.

Tom Neltner
Chemicals Policy Director, Health

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From: Nguyen, Thuy <Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Tom Neltner <tneltner@edf.org>
Cc: drmvma@gmail.com; Tom Bruton <tom@greensciencepolicy.org>; Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Draft Blog on EPA Report PFAS in Plastic Pesticide Packaging

Hi Tom

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review your draft blog

Attached is the blog with our suggested technical edits. Reviewing and providing technical edits to your blog do not mean that EPA agree with your findings and/or your views on this topic.

Regards

Thuy

P.S. You may already have done so, but in case you have not and would like to reach out to FDA for their review, we could provide you a contact if needed. Let us know

From: Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:44 PM
To: Tom Neltner <tneltner@edf.org>; Nguyen, Thuy <Nguyen.Thuy@epa.gov>
Cc: dmvma@gmail.com; Tom Bruton <tom@greensciencepolicy.org>
Subject: RE: Draft Blog on EPA Report PFAS in Plastic Pesticide Packaging

And, copying the correct Thuy. Thank you!

From: Tom Neltner <tneltner@edf.org>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 8:30 AM
To: Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Nguyen, ThuyT <Nguyen.ThuyT@epa.gov>
Cc: dmvma@gmail.com; Tom Neltner <tneltner@edf.org>; Tom Bruton <tom@greensciencepolicy.org>
Subject: Draft Blog on EPA Report PFAS in Plastic Pesticide Packaging

Drs. Nesci and Nguyen,

Thank you for the excellent report into PFAS in HDPE pesticide packaging! Maricel Maffini, GSPI's Tom Bruton, and I have explored the issue further and prepared the attached draft blog summarizing our finding. The blog is titled "Beyond paper: PFAS linked to common plastic packaging used for food, cosmetics, and much more"

We plan to publish Wednesday, COB and need comments by Wednesday morning. Since it is based on your report, I wanted to run the draft past you for your review if you are interested.

Tom

Results from an [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) investigation](#) into PFAS-contaminated pesticides have much broader, concerning implications for food, cosmetics, cleaning products, and other consumer products, as well as recycling. This investigation, first announced in January, found that fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers used for pesticide storage contained a mix of short and long-chain per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), including [PFOA](#), that leached into the product. The PFAS were not intentionally added to the HDPE but were produced when fluorine gas was applied to the plastic.

The process of polyethylene fluorination was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1983 for food packaging to reduce oxygen and moisture migration through the plastic that would cause foods to spoil. The fluorination process forms a Teflon-like barrier on the plastic's surface. It is also used to strengthen the packaging, although this use was not included in the FDA approval.

Since EPA released its investigation, we have learned that the fluorination of plastic is commonly used to treat [hundreds of millions](#) of polyethylene and polypropylene containers each year ranging from packages consumers handle to larger containers used by retailers such as restaurants and to even larger drums used by manufacturers to store and transport fluids.

Fluorination of plastic and the inadvertent creation of PFAS may be another reason these 'forever chemicals' show up in many unexpected places and is another significant source that must be addressed. Much remains to be resolved as FDA and EPA actively investigate this new source of PFAS; however, preventive steps need to be taken quickly, especially since other PFAS-free barrier [materials](#) are available as [alternatives](#).

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